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By Mr. T O W N,  
CRITIC and CENSOR-GENERAL.

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— — *Placidum pecus, inque tuendos  
Natum homines; vitæque magis quam morte juvatis.*

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RETURNING the other night from the coffee-house, where I had just been reading the Votes, I found myself on a sudden oppressed with a drowsiness, that seemed to promise me as sound a repose in my great chair, as my dog already enjoyed by the fire-side. I willingly indulged it, and had hardly closed my eyes before I fell into the following dream.

METHOUGHT the door of my room on a sudden flew open, and admitted a great variety of Dogs of all sorts and sizes, from the mastiff to the lapdog. I was surprized at this appearance, but my amazement was much

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encreased,

increased, when I saw a large Grey-hound advancing towards me, and heard him thus address me in a human voice.

" You cannot, Sir, be ignorant of the panic that prevails among all our species, on account of a scheme now on foot for our destruction. That slaughter, which was formerly made among the wolves of this land, and in which our ancestors bore so large a share, is now going to be revived among us. I, for my own part, have no hopes of escaping, as you will easily judge when you hear my case. My master owes his subsistence to his labour, and with his wages can just maintain me and his three children. In return, I now and then afford him a comfortable meal, by killing him a rabbit in the squire's warren, or picking him up a hare on a *Sunday* morning. The other services I render him are of equal importance to him and pleasure to myself. I am his constant companion to the field in the morning, and back again at night: he knows that his cloaths and his wallet are safe in my keeping; and he is sure to be roused on any midnight alarm, when I am in the house.

" It is with horror I reflect on the numbers of my relations, who will swing their last, and against whom this law seems indeed to be levelled. Is it not enough that our merits are neglected, and thought inferior to those of a slow-footed race, who inhabit a spacious kennel in the squire's yard, and who are as many hours in killing a hare, as we are minutes? Yet they are kept by the great, attended by the noble, and every day treated

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“ ed with horse-flesh: while I live among the poor, am  
“ threatened by the rich, and now probably shall be de-  
“ stroyed by public authority.

“ I CANNOT deny, but that the favour of the ladies is  
“ frequently extended to a small and degenerate race; who,  
“ tho’ they bear our name, may very properly be stiled the  
“ *Fribbles* of our Species. ’Tis true, they are of foreign  
“ extraction, which alone is sufficient merit, and seem  
“ indeed to be as much preferred by the *Beau Monde* to  
“ our *English* greyhounds, as their countrymen in the  
“ *Haymarket* are to our *English* fingers. But tho’ this  
“ breed is so diminutive, that I myself have coursed one  
“ of them for a hare, yet I will venture to pronounce,  
“ that be the tax what it will, not a *Fido* in the land  
“ will be sacrificed to the laws.

“ OUR request to you is to display our merits to the  
“ world and convince mankind of the innocence of our  
“ intentions, and the hardships that we already labour un-  
“ der. Though I have enlarged on my own case; I have  
“ the honour to address you in the name of all my  
“ brethren; such of them, I mean, as think themselves  
“ endangered by this scheme for our destruction. At the  
“ same time we desire you to apprize the Public of the  
“ hazard they may run by coming to an open rupture;  
“ since, in such a case, the Mastiffs and the Bull Dogs are  
“ determined to join their forces, and will sell their lives  
“ at the dearest rate.”

THIS last resolution was confirmed by a general growl.  
After which I was thus accosted by another of the company,  
of the Pointing-breed,

LITTLE

“ LITTLE did I think, that the pains I have taken,  
“ and the blows I have suffered, to perfect me in the art  
“ I profess, would have been thus requited. Having lost  
“ the best of masters by an accident from his gun, which  
“ I can scarce ever think of without a howl, I have now,  
“ like my friend *Smoker*, the misfortune to live with a  
“ poor man. A misfortune I now call it, since alas! he  
“ will not be able to save me from the halter, by paying  
“ my ransom. He too, I am afraid, will be reduced to  
“ beggary; since at present, I and his gun are his chief  
“ support. If he is deprived of me, and thereby pre-  
“ vented from what the rich maliciously term *poaching*,  
“ his best resource will be to dispatch himself with his  
“ gun before he surrenders it, or to hang himself with the  
“ same rope that ties up me. When I was a puppy, I  
“ was every day fed in the kitchen, and caressed in the  
“ parlour; and I have now a brother, that always points  
“ for the best of company. What though our race has  
“ been frequently reproached? What though we, together  
“ with the Spaniels, have been accused, I do not say  
“ wrongfully, of crouching to our enemies, and licking  
“ the hand that beats us? Is not this every day practised  
“ among your species, and is it not countenanced by the  
“ greatest examples? In fawning and flattering we are by  
“ no means singular, and crouching and cringing are not  
“ confined to the brute species.

“ I VERY heartily second the request of my friend,  
“ and doubt not but the arguments you will use in our  
“ behalf will be able to divert the storm that threatens us.  
“ This, you may be assured of, that if my life is spared  
“ through your means, it shall be devoted to your service;  
“ and

“ and you shall sup, as often as you please, on a brace  
“ of birds.”

THIS speech was attended with a bark of applause; and I was next accosted by a Lap-Dog, who, after dolefully shaking his ears, began the following harangue.—

“ Though I am aware that many of my species will remain unhurt by this scheme devised for our destruction,  
“ yet I have on my own account great reason to be alarmed.  
“ I was born indeed in a noble family in *St. James's* square, but unfortunately was within these three months  
“ resigned over to my present mistress, an old maid,  
“ who had been through her whole life as frugal of her  
“ money as her favours. She is indeed so very saving,  
“ that I have more than once been beat for lapping up  
“ her breakfast cream, and it was but last week that I  
“ was severely corrected for devouring a sheep's heart, for  
“ which she had been to market herself. Such a mistress  
“ will undoubtedly sacrifice me to this cruel tax; and  
“ though you may perhaps imagine the loss of life in  
“ these circumstances is not much to be regretted, yet  
“ death is a terrible remedy, and a living dog is better than  
“ a dead lion. But if some of our species must perish,  
“ surely a regard should be had to national merit; and  
“ the storm should first fall on those foreign intruders, who  
“ by the flatness of their noses are supposed to be of *Dutch*  
“ extraction. If the ladies also have any regard to the  
“ honour of their country, or any love remaining for Us,  
“ it becomes them to take our case into consideration.  
“ And I make no doubt, since *The FEMALE PARLIAMENT*  
“ is now sitting, but if you, Sir, would draw up a petition  
“ in our favour; as the other sex have taken necessary



“precautions for the preservation of the Game, the ladies  
“would in their turn bring in a bill for the preservation of  
“Lap-Dogs.”

VARIOUS were the arguments that many others used in their own behalf. The Mastiff insisted on the Protection he afforded us, and the terror he struck into thieves and house-breakers. King *Charles's* black favourites came fawning upon me, and hoped that their breed might be preserved in deference to the taste of so witty a monarch. I could not help smiling at the argument made use of by a Bull-Dog from *Norfolk*: who declared that he was so instrumental to the mirth of the county, that he firmly believed, they would never part with him; but begged at the same time that, if sentence *must* pass, it might be changed into banishment, and that *Spain* might be the place of his transportation.

THE eloquence and gesture of my four-footed visitors had such an influence over me, that I was just going to answer them in the manner they could wish; when my own Dog on a sudden jumped into my lap, and roused me from my dream.